

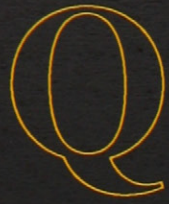
# QUID NOVI

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Dear all,

What can I say really? A long, strange trip...not even close. Lawna was crazy enough to leave the Quid in my hands and, well, the results speak for themselves. I hate technology. The people responsible for introducing society to the computer are evil, EVIL people and they should be killed. I want to go live in a hut in some far-off place where computers will never find me.

Rebecca.



# Ce n'est pas une question de politique!

LIZANNE BRUNELLE LAW II

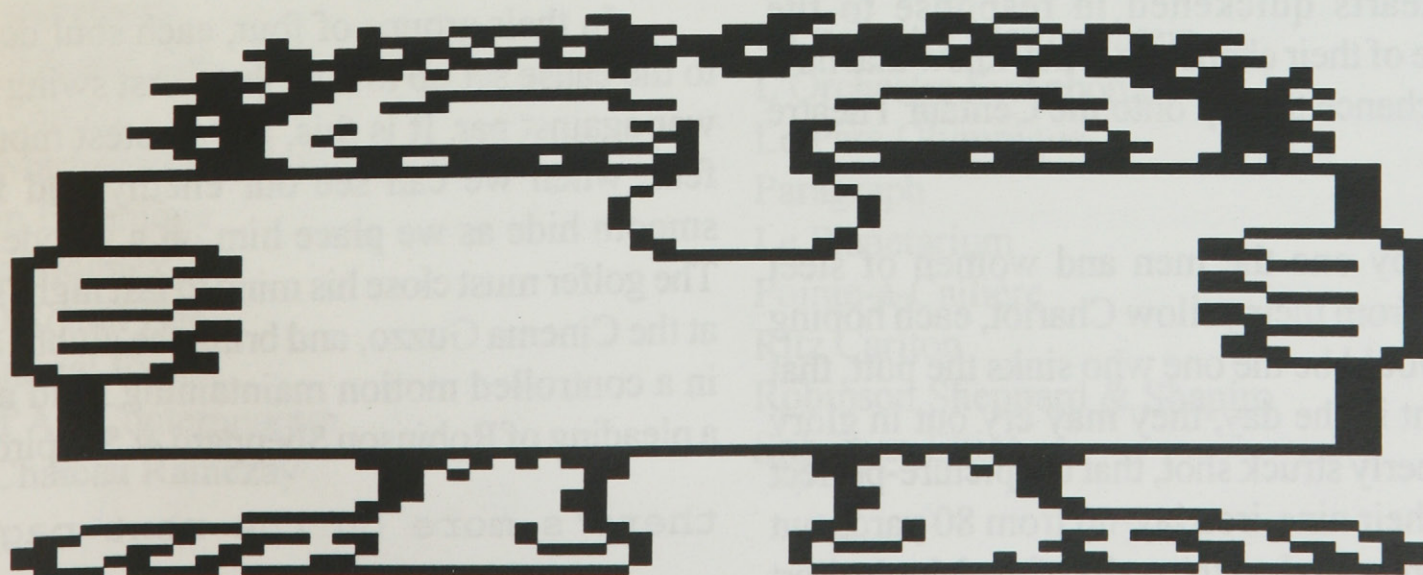
Chers collègues,

Où êtes-vous? Déjà 3 semaines de passées et le seul article en français à avoir été soumis est le mien. Pathétique, n'est-ce pas? Je cherche à comprendre la raison de ce flagrant manque d'intérêt pour la langue de Molière, mais je n'y parviens point. Non, les articles en français ne sont pas plus «nuls» parce qu'ils sont en français. Un jugement de la Cour suprême n'est pas plus intéressant à lire parce qu'il est écrit en anglais (ils sont écrits en français aussi, mais passons)? Pas à mon humble avis. Plusieurs d'entre vous avez le potentiel de faire rire une classe entière; pourquoi ne pas en faire profiter le reste de la faculté? Après tout, ce n'est pas si pire que ça être lu par quelques centaines de personnes (moins si vous écrivez en français naturellement!) Le pire qui pourrait vous arriver serait que quelqu'un soit scandalisé par vos propos et en fasse une sévère critique dans l'édition suivante. Et puis après, ce n'est pas la fin du monde!

Un autre point que je désirais soulever dans cet article concerne l'aspect « politique » de la langue française. À distinguer, S.V.P.!!! Dès que l'on parle de la langue française, une des premières choses qui vient à l'esprit des gens est la « Loi 101 ». Quelle erreur!!! J'avoue que certaines démarches reliées au processus de protection de la langue s'avèrent plus ridicules qu'autre chose. Je n'ai aucune objection à ce que « Second Cup » soit « Second Cup » et non «Deuxième Tasse ». Mais à l'essence même de l'écriture, écrire en français n'a absolument rien de politique. Tout dépend du pouvoir et du sens que l'on veut bien donner aux mots. En ce qui me concerne, mes articles ne visent à promouvoir aucun parti politique ou alliance linguistique. J'écris sans arrière-pensée et les mots employés doivent être interprétés dans leur sens le plus élémentaire. J'ai longtemps hésité à écrire en français. Le contexte largement anglophone de mon environnement (il ne s'agit pas là d'un reproche, au contraire!) m'a toujours fait hésiter à écrire en français. Après tout, je voulais étudier à McGill pour améliorer mon anglais. Je réalise toutefois que l'écriture pour le plaisir, tel que je le fais, ne revêt aucun aspect politique et qu'il serait erroné de lui en attribuer un. Le français a aussi sa place dans notre faculté.

Sur ce, je vous invite tous à apporter, vous aussi, votre contribution en français sans vous sentir étiqueté ou jugé par votre choix linguistique.

À vos crayons, prêts, PARTEZ!!!



le 19 septembre 2000

N



# Golf and Peace

jeff nichols nat iv

On Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 49 brave souls grabbed their clubs and marched proudly onto the soggy fields of Golf St. François. The intense wind reminded some of Pointe-à-Callière. And the clouded skies and ominous threats of rain made our heroes wish, for that day only, that golf were played in a Biodome. Unfortunately, their enemy was not only the rain imposed by Mother Nature's mandatory, Ogilvy Renault, but that little white ball, whose erratic flight pattern has mystified and frustrated all men not named Tiger.

The war to entrap our dimpled foe in a tin cup began with our valiant soldiers sprawled out in a yellow school bus. Seats were few, but the fear of battle, a Saumier seminar, and tardiness ensured that everyone had a couple of seats of their own. I guess some did not get their Meloche Monnex insurance. Despite the eerily vacant spaces, our combatants' will and sense of camaraderie was strong. Even the dark skies and the early morning could not quiet our chants calling for the whacking of that tightly wound ball of string wrapped in shell of cured plastic. The music was reminiscent of a piece played by l'Orchestre Metropolitain. As we rode over the bumps and potholes of the Quebec Highways to Laval, our heroes' hearts quickened in response to the imminence of their challenge. They knew that now was their chance to step onto the Centaur Theatre stage.

One by one the men and women of steel descended from their yellow Chariot, each hoping that they would be the one who sinks the putt, that at one point in the day, they may cry out in glory after a properly struck shot, that the picture-perfect beauty of their nine-iron lay-up from 80 yards out would be preserved on the walls of the Musée d'art

contemporain. However, our honorable regiment knew that our foe was represented by Stikeman Elliot, and they had to be at their absolute best.

Our self-sacrificing crusaders gathered around, inspecting one last time their trusted arms for combat, thinking of their forefathers who had defended Fort Stewart on Ile-Ste.-Hélène. Some rented clubs that could have come directly from Chateau Ramezay. Not even the legalistic magic of the lawyers from Borden Ladner Gervais could alter their characterization as ancient. Others went to the clubhouse to energize and invigorate, secretly hoping to find a Carlos and Pepes.

The veterans wrapped their hands in tight Oberson leather gloves, ensuring the maximum grip on the poles that would separate them from the other side. Having trained at the Parc Olympique, they were confident that their sacrifice would be rewarded. The rookies wandered aimlessly, lost in the vast green spaces, wondering if the Jardin Botanique would be an equally challenging stage for a prospective battle.

Our fearless leader, Marianne, with all the elegance of an Orchestre Symphonique, rhythmically broke the troops into foursomes, sending them out every eight minutes into the wet, vision-reduced quagmire of freshly cut grass, pits of sand, and the dreaded water hazards. These dangers posed a much greater threat to our warriors' safety than would a release of the animals of the Biosphere.

In their groups of four, each soul dedicated to the cause set up to take their first swing= in the war against par. It is this, the greatest moment of fear, when we can see our enemy and feel his smooth hide as we place him on a wooden stick. The golfer must close his mind to last night's movie at the Cinema Guzzo, and bring the clubhead back in a controlled motion maintaining fluid arc, like a pleading of Robinson Sheppard & Shapiro, while

there's more on the next page



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

he rotates his hips hips. Then, when the club can not go back any further, the golfer quickly reverse the motion, generating tremendous club speed, as the he turns his hips toward his flighty foe, eyes focused on his logo, elbow-locked, the moment of impact, the exhilaration of power, that feeling of success, ... the hook, ... that dreaded hook. The head slowly descends as we watch our hated villain curl deeper and deeper into the trees. He has won. Disappeared. Out of Sight. Gone. Like a shooting star on the ceiling of the Planetarium.

Our hero tried again. His hopes may have been dashed, but his will was not broken. He would not suffer the same fate as the Montreal Expos. He swung again and again and again, praying that this time he would direct the plastic version of the some flying evil villain in found in a story on the shelves of Paragraph into that hole that is just too damn small.

Although many of our courageous supermen failed in the onslaught of the day, there are a few who rose above the crowd, who will be forever remembered, like the artists featured in the Musée des Beaux-Arts. They stared that white ball straight in its dimples and said "I am going to go to lunch at Olio's". Long drives, short chips, tricky putts, it did not matter to these mutants of athletic skill, as they directed the white satan triumphantly towards his head.

Despite the difficulty of the mission, our exhausted soldiers celebrated the battle with a panoply of food, alcohol and prizes under the auspices of a Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP banner. There was a collection of sandwiches and salads rivaling that of Moe's Deli and Bar. The liquors were equivalent to what you would find in a mini-bar at the Ritz-Carlton. And, the prizes, the many, many prizes.

While some of lost and some of us won, we all had a good time, ... well, except for maybe Vinay but that is a story for another time. On behalf of the dedicated troops, I wish to thank our General, the VP Athletics, for all the hard work she put in to the golf tournament to make it such a success. Without her dedication and perseverance, we would not have conquered our enemy, had such a great time in the process, and most importantly, won such an awesome prizes. So who wants to go to the Stewart Museum with me?

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Le Parc Olympique  
Paragraph  
Le Planetarium  
Pointe-à-Callière  
Ritz Carlton  
Robinson Sheppard & Shapiro  
Stikeman Elliot



# BRIDGET JONES GOES TO LAW SCHOOL

VERONICA HENDERSON AND NICOLE LACHANCE LLB III

21 September

*weight 136 lbs. (owing entirely to pre-interview snacking), alcohol units 5 (good), gym visits 1 (admirable) calories burned during gym visits ? (perhaps gym visit cannot be properly characterized as cardiovascular activity as consisted solely of relaxation period in steam room), letters received from top barrister bf/pen pal 1.*

Life turned completely upside down due to inexplicably high-impact on-campus interview process. Have been urged by highly receptive and responsive friend Lillian to revisit *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* in effort to regain balance and inner poise in midst of interview chaos. Difficult task, however, as feel as though each and every interview suit donned by self will be de-accessorized and critiqued relentlessly by ABA (Association of Bitchy Associates). Nevertheless, must continue to persevere in manner of Lillian, who has earned top job in Boston, and follow in footsteps of her and other Highly Effective People.

Great disparity between number of on-campus interview slots applied for and number of interview slots actually granted. Apparently, unique method of individualizing cover letters less successful than previously anticipated. *Note to self:* to insert the phrase "Firm X's XY practice group is a leader in the sphere of XXX law, and has been involved in transactions relating to XX-XY" *only* effective if actually have time to replace X's with name of actual practice group, etc.

Called emergency summit in Ritz hotel bar following disastrous Fish and Wildlife transcontinental law class. (Guest speaker sporting frightening fur-lined pinstripe for presentation dealing with beaver tails and their impact on legal transactions in Gaspésie.) Summit held for purpose of discussing inauspicious letter received from top barrister pen pal. Bosom friend Hermia, who has taken up karate in attempt to eradicate all lingering thoughts of cuddling with maladjusted yet well-toned engineer, dramatically quoted Japanese proverb (*Once you leave the shelter of home, there are a million enemies*) and pointed out that pen pal's letter riddled with malaise indicating possible barrister bachelor toxicity. Lillian more helpful in picking apart each sentence of said letter and searching for alternate (ie, non-obvious) meaning behind each word. Did take particular note of flagrant use of the l-word, and cheerfully washed down complimentary truffles with generous glass of Chardonnay.

\* With apologies to Helen Fielding



I  
THE COMMON ROOM

Bonjour à toutes et à tous,

You have probably noticed the beautiful transformation that our cherished Common Room has undergone. In recent years, we have witnessed its deterioration, partly due to heavy use. We are therefore extremely grateful to McCarthy Tétrault for their generous contribution to the renovation of this room. Their generosity has allowed us to restore the wood floor, the ceiling and its moldings, replace one section of wood panelling, purchase lamps, ceiling light fixtures, new furniture and replace the grills.

À mon avis, ces rénovations ont redonné à cette pièce son prestige et sa notoriété et nous sommes fiers d'y accueillir des visiteurs. Vous comprendrez sûrement que nous désirons préserver la beauté de notre Grand Salon. C'est pour cette raison que cette pièce servira exclusivement à l'organisation de réunions, ateliers, conférences et séminaires. Que ces activités soient organisées par des professeurs, des étudiants ou des membres du personnel, vous devrez au préalable en aviser le bureau du Doyen. All the activities organized in the Common Room must be approved and reserved through the Dean's office. Please note that it is now forbidden to eat and to drink in the Common Room.

I know that for some of you, the Common Room was an ideal room to eat, take a break, study or even nap. These activities can easily be accomplished in the Atrium built 3 years ago to accommodate students. Nous vous demandons dès lors de pratiquer ces activités, qu'elles soient académiques ou non, dans l'Atrium plutôt que dans le Grand Salon afin que nous puissions préserver cet endroit.

Peter Leuprecht  
Dean

---

OSLER,  
HOSKIN &  
HARCOURT

le 26 septembre 2000

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# LAMENT FOR THE DEATH OF MY QUID

DEAN TAYLOR NAT IV

"Remember the days of the old schoolyard? We used to laugh a lot."

-Cat Stevens

Yeah, I remember the good old days. When people were known as LLB II or BCL III. When the Common Room was the venue for Coffee House. When "Spawn of Fagan" and "Semper Tyrannis" were intramural teams to be feared and respected. When the Quid had a soul.

Not that it's the editors fault. Far from it. But we have noticed a subtle change in the Quid over the past few years, and it is reaching epidemic proportions. The Quid used to be funny, and irreverent, and chock full of stuff like "Keener Bingo" and weird rants and stories that were written because people enjoyed writing. Things have changed. The Quid of our youth is no longer. And with that in mind, I present

## *"Lament for the Death of My Quid"*

(with no apologies to Jim Morrison, 'cause he's dead.)

Lament for my Quid  
Stale and crucified  
I hardly know you  
Once full of soulful wisdom,  
You could open walls of mystery  
Stripshow.

How I miss Peden in the morning show  
TV death which the child absorbs  
Death well mystery which makes me write  
Slow train, the death of my Quid gives life.

Forgive the poor old people who gave us entry  
Taught us law in the Quid's prayer in the night

James Bailey,  
Ancient wise satyr,  
Sing your ode to my Quid

"Ben's Retort",  
Stiffen and guide us, we frozen,  
Lost cells,  
The knowledge of Main,  
To speak to the heart  
And give the great gift:  
Words Power Trance

Brent Olthuis and the beasts of his zoo,  
Wild haired chicks,  
Women flowery in their summit,  
Monsters of poetry  
Each colour connects  
to create the boat  
which rocks the race  
Even last year's Valentine's Quid was subpar.

I read her top ten list and death smiled.

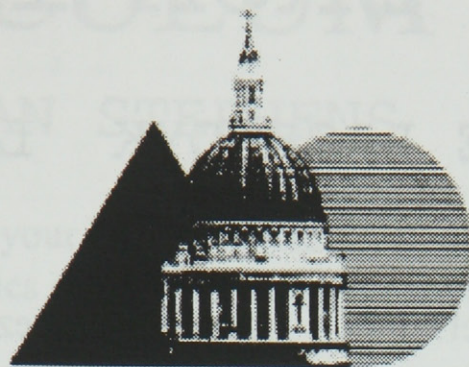
Death, old friend,  
Death and my Quid are the world  
I can forgive my injuries in the name of  
Wisdom Luxury Romance

Sentence upon sentence  
Words are healing lament  
For the death of my Quid's spirit  
I miss Chancellor Day Fiction Club.  
Words got me the wound and will get me well,  
If you believe it.

All join now and lament for the death of my Quid  
Dear Heloise was knowledge in the feathered night  
Awi and Patrick get crazy in the head and suffer.

I sacrifice my Quid on the altar of silence.





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le 26 septembre 2000



# SUFFERING FROM INSOMNIA?

JO ANNE LAGENDYK LAW I

Remember reading your favourite novel? I mean a real page-turner, the one where you stayed up until three in the morning because you just couldn't put it down. This may be merely a faint memory to most fourth year students, but relatively unscarred freshmen should know what I'm talking about.

A good book was energizing, exciting - no matter how tired you were, you just had to read one more page!

Lately, however, reading has become a wrestling match between me and slack-jawed, sitting upright slumber. After two pages, I feel oxygen-deprived and dark spots appear on the page in front of me. My eyelids become unbearably heavy and refuse to stay open. My head nods. My body slumps. This alarming chain of events happens regardless of the amount of sleep I've had or the time of day. And judging from the amount of napping I've seen in going on the library, I'm not alone.

Since I have been able to stay conscious while reading up to now, I must assume it is not the act of reading that's doing this to me. Is it the subject matter? Can't be! Forgive me if I sound like too much of a keener, but this stuff is fascinating! Granted, it's not Stephen King, but it is exciting, in a perverse kind of way.

So if it's not the act of reading and it's not the subject matter that's prematurely turning out my lights, what is it? Could it be the way I'm reading?

Although breezing through *The Firm* and scanning *L'évolution générale de la responsabilité civile* are both deemed «□reading□», the procedures involved in no way resemble each other. The legal text requires that I concentrate intently on every sentence, unlike reading Grisham, where as long as I get the gist of the chapter, I'm getting all the information I need.

Reading legal texts is like a marathon for the intellect, a work-out for the cerebellum, jogging for the gray matter. And let's face it, I've let my gray matter get flabby and out of shape. I've exercised my body religiously while letting my brain develop a paunch.

Wondering how I could whip my brain back into shape pronto, the thought struck me: that's what law school is for — it's a fat farm for your brain! You're fed a nutritious diet of texts, simple at first, and encouraged to do some light thinking, nothing too strenuous. Gradually, over a period of months and years, your mental stamina and strength increase. But you can't rush it. When I started running, many years ago, I didn't start off with the mileage I do today - in my unconditioned state I would have dropped dead! I started off easy and took pride in small accomplishments.

So tonight, as I find myself once again losing consciousness over my casebook, my last thought will be one of satisfaction that at least I made it to the end of the paragraph. Tomorrow, maybe I'll make it to the end of the cha.....ZZZZZZZZ.



# CURRICULUM CORNER

MEGAN STEPHENS LAW II

Greetings from Megan Stephens, your VP Academic! In a continuing attempt to try and live up to the high standard for VP Academics set by MC Leman, I have decided to revive the curriculum corner in the Quid.

For those of you who were not here last year and did not know MC, well lucky for me... She has set the bar pretty high! More importantly, however, you may not know what curriculum corner is. Well, in this column I will try to answer the questions that students ask me about academic issues and concerns. For example, if you want to know what is going on with the new majors, minors or honours programmes, you can ask me and when I get the answers (which is not yet - sorry) I will share them here. If you have questions you can email them to me at [meganstephens@hotmail.com](mailto:meganstephens@hotmail.com), or alternatively drop a note in my mailbox in the LSA or leave a phone message for me there at 398-6966. (Everything will of course be confidential so if you are worried that your name might appear along with a really stupid question, don't worry about that. Oh yeah - on that note, there are of course NO stupid questions. Well, and even if I do think they are stupid, I will try to keep that to myself. My mom and dad may have to hear about them in a phone call, but that's what parents are for right?!)

So, this week's curriculum corner is all about pass/fail courses with the Faculty of Law. As most of you probably know, there are several courses that can be taken within the Faculty that are marked solely on a pass/fail basis. (Just a little note of interest here - did you know that if you were studying law at Yale apparently all of your courses would be pass/fail?!) Anyhow, here at McGill, you can take a total of 15 credits of non-lecture courses which are marked on a pass/fail basis, an increase from 9 credits under the old National Programme. Non-lecture pass/fail credits include the competitive moots, legal clinics, McGill Law Journal positions, clerkships, tutorial leaders, etc. This total of 15 credits does NOT include courses taken outside of the Faculty at other universities which are marked on a pass/fail basis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20...

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le 26 septembre 2000

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# FROM LOG CABIN TO LEGEND: THE LINCOLN MYTH IN THE AMERICAN MIND

JOE MIK LAW II

Abraham Lincoln was born into barbaric primitiveness. Early on, his parents left their Kentucky log cabin for a homestead in Illinois. His family embarrassed Lincoln. His mother was illegitimate. His father suffered bankruptcy several times. His brother accumulated debts. Lincoln's marriage proved miserable. His wife's sickly disposition offered little intimacy or intellectual solace. Nevertheless, some happy conjunction of dogged effort and native genius enabled him to develop, lotus-like, unsullied by the surrounding morass of ignorance. If we judge minds by their critical attitude rather than their academic rigor, then Lincoln's stood well above his peers'. He emerged from his modest law practice and obscure hamlet in the early 1840s possessed with Cicero's eloquence and Cato's virtue. There was an inevitability about him that pierced the torpor of rural Illinois, thrusting him onto the national stage. By 1859, the Rt. Hon. Lincoln, former Congressman and State Representative, counsel to the Illinois Central Railway, one of the largest US corporations, metamorphosed into "Honest Abe," the bearded prophet of Biblical lore. He ascended to the Presidency just as "government of the people, by the people, for the people" seemed about to "perish from the earth" [Gettysburg Address]. He rallied incompetent generals and disillusioned citizens after a series of calamitous defeats. Days after the Union's final victory, assassination martyred him.

Reconciling Lincoln's greatness with his humble origins challenges every biographer. Biographers infuse their subject with their own prejudice in an effort to clarify this incongruity. Lord Charnwood ascribes Lincoln's greatness to his mother's bastardy. He argues that genius, a distinguishing feature of aristocracy, flowed from some unknown member of the Virginia gentry through the mother to the son. Populist historian Daniel J. Boorstin surmised the opposite. The very humility of Lincoln's origins imbued him "with the common virtues to an uncommon degree." The brilliant trajectory of Lincoln's career reinforced Americans' conviction in social mobility, a trait that they believe distinguishes their society from the rest. Their attitude that "anyone can make it" renders success mundane, ascribes ill fate to personal failings, and

masks the flagrant inequalities that have threatened the cogency of American society since its inception. To many Americans Lincoln's experience proves that society rewards virtue. He also embodies a faith that natural talent can overcome shortcomings in formal education. These values shape American culture to this day. They have also proved among its most successful exports. Even leaders irreconcilable to US interests, like as Xian Zhu Min and Fidel Castro, represent themselves as Lincoln's heirs.

*Today we ascribe extraordinary foresight and moral gravity to Lincoln. Although a sincere abolitionist, Lincoln was no egalitarian. Slaves might be freed but they would never assume full citizenship. Indeed, slavery's morality was peripheral to the constitutional debates of the 1850s. Instead, the dispute hinged on an obscure but vital bit of history. Did the institution conform to the Founders' intentions?*

*Considerable ambiguity marred the record. Many Founders owned slaves. But they abolished the importation of slaves from Africa and prohibited the institution's expansion into the western territories. Lincoln argued, not without justification, that the Founders had wanted slavery to "wither at the root." In support, he had Jefferson's commiserations and the fact that the Northern states, most of which had been slaveholding at Confederation, had abolished the institution. Ranged on the other side, considerable economic interests cast the prospect of emancipation in ominous tones, even arguing that slavery enjoyed divine sanction. On this issue, the great political parties assumed their respective and well-worn stances.*

*Democrats preached the necessity of indulging other men's evil. Republicans thundered on the*

FOR MORE JOE MIK SEE PAGE 15





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# PRE-COFFEE HAUS MUSINGS

MARC EDMUNDS LAW II

So as I sit here enduring my Thursday afternoon lecture, dreaming of better things (*i.e.*, Coffee Haus), I contemplate the topic of my article for this week's *Quid*. I guess an always promising starting point is Law Games!

Marianne has informed me that there is quite a bit of interest among the froshies. That is music to my ears. It will, of course, serve only to encourage me to push LG even harder, which I shall. I wish to emphasise here that while I will feel free to write about LG every week, they are also an excellently suitable topic of conversation at Coffee Haus, so feel free to come up to me and chat at length about any & every aspect thereof – including last year's ROARING SUCCESS, or the EXCITING ANTICIPATION you may be feeling for Calgary – I shan't discriminate as to which of these sub-topics you wish to discuss! Also, to exchange students, I actively encourage you to attend if you will still be here next semester – I am sure it is unlike anything you have experienced. Of this I am sure as we even had exchange students from 2 years ago come back this past January JUST for Law Games!!!

Another, somewhat related topic: The Malpractice Cup. For the previous 7 or 8 years, we had kicked Medicine's ass, with good reason, but somehow, mysteriously (ranked up there with the great mysteries of the world, including the Holy Grail, the Great Pyramids and the Bermuda Triangle), we lost last year. This will NOT happen again this year. Order must be restored to the Universe. This, too, is a situation where enthusiastic numbers are an excellent secret weapon. It is, in addition, very easy to participate in, being on-campus & only one day-night. So, a call to arms! "Law Student X, ... COME ON DOWN!!!" All are welcome, & many needed, so please participate, & come and have lots of fun! In case you don't know what happens, there are fun sporting events, trivia games, drinking games, and basic camaraderie (amongst us, against them!).

Now, before I become firmly classified in your minds as nothing more than a raving enthusiast (too late!), I should change gears. I thought for a while about topics, but after looking around the class, I thought how about travel? There seem to be even more international students/ traveled Canadian students this year than last, which is fantastic. There is, however, one small problem with that – I have a very advanced case of severe travel-bug syndrome, & I haven't even been out of province this year save a barely-in-Ontario camping trip in the summer, and a barely-in-Ontario Law Games in Ottawa (we stayed in Hull!) in January, and neither really count as traveling.

So meeting all these wonderful people with wonderful experiences from wonderful places is driving me nuts as it is only feeding my travel bug & making me more restless. [Don't get me wrong, I LOVE Montreal, it is a fantastic city, but I need to go places I haven't been.] So, I have a solution to propose: anyone with any interesting summer travel stories (hint-hint, Nadim), & all those with any other travel stories (take note, international students), why don't you write in and tell us all some wonderfully entertaining stories about places-not-here?! Sounds good to me. But I guess I should start the ball rolling myself eh?

Well, I already wrote a travel article on Namibia – last year, and always feel presumptuous writing one on South Africa when there are South African students in the faculty, so what else can I write on with any sort of knowledge? I have an idea – a little road-trip I took in the summer of '99 to Boston and New York City – two fantastic cities with radically different personalities (and a VERY heated sports rivalry, to boot).

So I shall start with Boston. It is a big city with a small college-town atmosphere. [It is the educational capital of North America, hosting something like 63 college/universities in the greater area.] If ever you are planning a visit, I highly recommend going at the beginning of the school year, when there are hundreds of thousands of university/college kids partying like mad. Staying with student friends in or near the student district is a highly recommended route (I got free room & board, free tours of the city, and inside information on the "in" places to be on the various nights, not to mention skipping a few line-ups cuz my friends knew people!). The city is disgustingly dirty in some areas, but beautifully quaint in others. A really excellent visit. I went on one of "Duck-tours" – they are an excellent (and kinda fun, too) way to get to see a lot of the city, as well as get to know a bit about its history and trivia (like that 63 universities/colleges stat I threw at you before!).

Then there is New York City. Ai, ai, ai. I love it, and for one reason only – that city is just **CRAZY!!!** Literally quite nuts – which, of course, suits me quite fine – I feel right at home! Just walking down any of the famous downtown areas/streets is enough to make me laugh. My favourite area is definitely the Greenwich Village/ Soho district – such a fun, relaxed, liberal, artsy, cool little area. Cynics attack it for trying too hard to be cool, or simply being too cool, but I like it. The nightlife,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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in the city that never sleeps, is WAY too vast for me to even try to begin to cover. I am sure that whatever your interests are, I already know a bar or club for you. For sports fans I definitely recommend the All-Star Café. SOOOOOO much very cool stuff, and if you are a Gretzky fan, the place is a must-visit. My major problem with NY though – the Statue of Liberty – it is TINY!!! They make it out to be enormous in the movies, but it really isn't all that big – merely some three hundred and some steps, if memory serves me correctly. The rest of the touristy stuff is fun, and worth doing if you wanna get the “full experience”, but if you hafta stand in a really tall building and look down, go to Chicago and see the Sears Tower – way more impressive.

My lecture is coming to an end, Coffee Haus is rapidly approaching, and this article is starting to become a bit long, so I should probably quit my babbling. I realize the travel section was a bit short, but when it comes to North American cities like Boston and NY, everyone has a very different experience and I don't want to impose mine on anyone else by making it an incredibly comprehensive review. I look forward to many great travel articles in the weeks to come. [Apologies to Lawna and the *Quid* staff if I have pre-empted one of your themes.]

next week -  
nightmare dates.  
you've all had one  
so share the fun.  
publish your scary  
experience and win  
a prize.

and, from page 12...

*imminence of divine retribution. Slave-owners drew encouragement from both. As the abolitionist position became more extreme, it enabled its slaveholding opponents to assume an air of moderation, winning them the tolerance their practices could not command.*

Americans standardize their history into a well-worn cliché. Some great foreign threat or, what amounts to the same thing, some internal dissention arising from their colonial legacy disturbs their peace-loving lethargy. The threat must always originate abroad, for understanding and innate goodness characterize Americans. Never has a cosmopolitan country so dependent on imports and immigration been so distrustful of foreign influence. The opponents assume their respective moral poles. The Good is as thoroughly good as the Evil is evil. American historians permit no ambiguity, resorting to frequent fictionalizations to keep the poles apart. They omit any mention of ties to the foe and suppress evidence of Americans provocation. The righteous cause assumes the mantle of universality. Americans always struggle on behalf of mankind. No matter that their problems, or means of defining them, may be of uniquely American origin, or that the Evil itself is unique to America. A violent struggle ensues. Although its issue is never in doubt, it nevertheless nearly results in the defeat of the righteous cause. Last minute victory ensures a defining break from the past, the emergence of utopian order. To this day, Americans blame slavery's legacy on the British, although they themselves sustained the institution well after the British Navy suppressed the trade. Many Americans continue to believe that they rid the world of slavery even though Abolition in the US lagged its French counterpart by 75 years. Every civilization subordinates historical fact to a faith in its own uniqueness. In that respect, America is no exception.

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first years  
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# INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

HARVEY AUERBACK LAW II

*This article should not be construed as recommending any particular investment. I have to make this disclaimer because you all know a bunch of prospective lawyers.*

*I know some of my classmates are already looking forward to taking their first baby steps with a New York law firm this summer. Some upper year students are already eyeing those big dollar signs that come with the coveted jobs down south. Since it'll be years before any New York newbie has so much as a free minute to spend any of that money, you may as well look for other places to put it in the meantime.*

This brings me to a (perfectly legal) investment opportunity that, as far as I know, is unique in what it can offer to the Canadian legal community. It's not expensive either, in investment terms. It should cost between \$700 and \$900 Canadian.

So if lawyers aren't allowed to incorporate, how are we supposed to invest in the Canadian legal community? Simple. Buy the company that gets all of the lawyers' money. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Quicklaw Inc. is issuing shares for around \$7-9 each in an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

For those of you not taking Securities Regulation with me in that coveted Friday afternoon time slot, this means that you could actually own part of the company Quicklaw Inc. With the purchase of any number of shares (one typically buys multiples of 100) you also get to vote on certain matters affecting the company. You get to elect the members of the board of directors and even raise issues at the annual shareholders' meeting. An added bonus is that if you buy the shares before October 10<sup>th</sup> you will actually receive them before they trade on the open market, and you will pay no commission to buy them.

I know what you're thinking. Besides "what the hell is he talking about?". Quicklaw has done just fine over the past 21 years, starting out as the world's first online legal information service and becoming the dominant supplier of online legal information in

Canada. Some person still owns all of the company, and is presumably doing rather well for himself. So why would he want to part with some of his ownership of the company he built? After all, isn't ownership the precious, desirable thing that Prof. Kasirer kept telling us it was?

Well, there are all kinds of reasons why someone might part with some of their ownership interest in the company they built. One is financing. All companies need money to grow. Some companies have trouble borrowing money at a competitive interest rate, and others simply don't want to have to pay the money back. If they can manage to sell a few million shares at a few bucks apiece, they get a huge pile of money that never has to be repaid, and it can all get reinvested in making a big company bigger.

Another reason is getting rich quick. Often, the founder of the company initially owns all the shares, and only sells a small amount of them in the IPO. If the stock does well, that's great news for the guy who still owns 10-90% of those shares. Bill Gates owns almost 742 million shares of Microsoft (MSFT), and Michael Dell owns over 343 million shares of Dell (DELL). Every time either of those stocks goes up an eighth, these people make tens of millions of dollars. Now, I doubt Quicklaw will be the next Microsoft, but stranger things have happened.

So if every time you use Quicklaw you want to get that feeling of pride that comes with owning the company, call your broker and order a piece of the IPO. Even if you don't, however, you can always buy the shares when they start trading on the open market. Of course, who knows how expensive the shares might be then? Quicklaw could be the next Microsoft – or the next drkoop.com (KOOP)...





# An Ode to Wine

Tony Hoffman LLB III

"Ah, bottle, my friend, why do you empty yourself?"

Good wine can only really be enjoyed in good company. At least, that's the theory. A good bottle of wine does, of course, have a character all its own, but a good bottle of wine shared with a lover, a good friend or friends, only makes it better.

I have to admit it - I'm a wine snob. Though not, perhaps, in the way you're thinking. You may think this an odd admission from someone who was called a 'monkey with a Mont Blanc pen' in these very pages, but let me explain. I don't just lift glasses of Chateau Petrus 1954 - which, at \$3000 a bottle is something less than a bargain for most of us. When I say I'm a wine snob, it's more a presumption based on the notion that there is a time and place for wine. Coffee House, for instance, is not a place for wine. As enjoyable as the myriad wine and cheese events may seem to be, they mask the vicious degradation of a liquid that has been called the nectar of the gods.

No matter which way you slice it, wine in a box or, less recently, an unpronounceable Polish vintage of dubious origin, are (to put it kindly) unpalatable. In essence it comes down to the fact that wine is to be tasted, sipped, imbibed, - however you want to say it. Wine is not guzzled, chugged, tossed back, etc. Drinking wine to get drunk - and I mean purely as a means to getting sloppy and stupid - is a sin that belongs in the same circle of hell as, for instance, kicking a puppy for the pure pleasure of hearing it yelp. In short, it's evil.

There is a general rule while dining that wine is for taste, water is for thirst. If your goal is a total, uncensored piss-up, then go for beer or the harder stuff. Moonshine works wonders, I hear.

But I digress. I was speaking, if I recall, of my snobbery. I can't generalize (because God - and the rest of you - knows that such use of a large broom has gotten me in hot water before), and so, in true lawyer fashion I shall say now that I speak only for myself. I would far rather spend 20 bucks on a decent bottle of wine every week of the year than spend it all losing my mind and countless brain cells on beer, or worse. This is by no means to say that I don't go on a bender or two every now and then, but for the most part, I'd rather be happy than stupid. Nor am I saying that good wine cannot be had *au bon marché*, because it can. I have tasted wine bought for \$12-15 a

bottle that rivals anything that could be found in the cellars of Margaux, Fronsac, or Figeac (ok, maybe not Figeac - damn that's good wine). That said, I would discourage shopping for wine at your corner *depanneur*. You are more likely to be bitten by a shark in Death Valley than to get anything more than battery acid in those places. This is by no means a plug for the SAQ, because I could quite easily punch a few holes in their so-called purchasing strategy. Leave us just say that despite the blatant bias of the SAQ for all things French, they have more experience and skill than mom and pop at the corner store.

I must say at this point that I am not one of the blessed few - wine critic Tony Aspler comes to mind - who, when given a wine, can tell you not only the vineyard and the vintage, but also whether the grapes used in the pressing were 1er Cru (first pressing) and whether they were picked from a vine with southern exposure or not. These people are the Olympians (you'll have to forgive me. Olympic fever has me convinced that the long jump should henceforth be known as the "Kangaroo Hop" and the 200 metre freestyle swimming event be known as the "Holy fuck they told me there weren't any sharks here skedaddle" - Oops. There I go with my broom. So sue me.) of Oenophilia.

99.99% of people, however, could not tell the difference between a \$25 bottle and a \$100 bottle if you paid them. For that matter, neither could I - for the most part. But I do know what I like. I can tell a St. Emilion from a Pomerol, a Chardonnay from a Sauvignon Blanc, and schlock from ambrosia. But it comes down to knowing what you like and going back for more. If a Chateau Bonnet turns your crank, but you can't find any more of the 1994 (which was not - *en passant* - a great year), then chances are pretty good that a younger wine from the same vineyard will be just as good. This cannot be said for Chateau *Depanneur* Milton (see my above comments re the dubious origins of certain 'vintages' [and I use that term *loosely*]). Granted, the finish on a younger wine won't be quite as smooth (indeed, this is why wines are often cellared for years - to mature. Come to think of it, this might be a good plan for some of us law students, and I say that inclusively. I know I could deal with a bit of time to mature), but then, if you just read this and are still wondering what 'finish' is, then it won't make a shred of difference. Drink what you like.

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# AN OPEN INVITATION TO DEVELOP AND PARTICIPATE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

JEFF KING LAW II

There are a number of really 'good' students doing very 'good' things in our faculty this year. Student organizations include Women and the Law, Children and the Law, the Aboriginal Law Association, Interamicus, and the new and particularly promising Working Group on Engendering the Rwanda Tribunal. As a member of the International Law Society (ILS), I would like to tell you about some of the activities that are being discussed within our organization.

The following proposals are not immutable. Suggestions for change are very important. In our environment, delegated projects don't work as effectively as multilaterally created and implemented ones. In order to participate in that process as much or as little as you want, please come out to the **ILS General Meeting on Wednesday, September 27 in Room 101** (please check posters for the exact time). I hope to see you there.

## Human Rights Workshop Series

There are several topics in international human rights law that are suitable for a 2-3 hour workshop period, but may or may not be discussed at length in an existing course. Such ideas may include international humanitarian law, corporate codes of conduct, provincial charters and tribunals, UN National Programmes of Action etc.

It is proposed that a Working Group on Workshops be established to carry out the following functions: (1) choose a list of suitable topics, with a view to addressing sufficiently global or regional human rights law structures and problems; (2) solicit candidates such as professors and activists to give the workshops on particular dates; (3) solicit lists of key documents, legal instruments, and websites from the chosen teacher and compile small packages of information for participating students; (4) produce participation certificates for members who attend a certain ratio of the workshops; (5) work to have the workshops recognized by the Faculty to the end of formal acknowledgement or financial support.

## Working Group on Academics and Careers

It is imperative that a coordinated effort to find job placements, internships, graduate programmes and other important career-related activities for would-be human rights activists be made.

continued on next page...



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This Working Group may perform the following functions: (1) establish lines of communication with regional organizations and Canadian and international organizations; (2) develop a 'Student Activist Profile,' into which interested students may put a list of their interests and goals, and have them followed up on by the Working Group; (3) prepare a 'List of Summer Opportunities in Human Rights' for early January; (4) get job information including salaries, applicant to acceptance ratio, skills requirements etc. from a broad sample in the field of human rights; (5) develop the existing Alumni Network with respect to social activists; (6) generally search for and compile for posterity lists of human rights jobs, organizations, and contacts that would be continually renewed for future students.

### **Working Group on Canadian Foreign Policy**

The basic idea behind this Group is to meet each semester, choose a policy issue, research it and write a policy critique that is legally based on Canada and its partners' international human rights obligations.

The time commitment for the project should be approximately 2 hours per week, depending on the number of participants. The first month would be devoted to revision of the foreign policy portfolio and the democratic selection of the issue, the second to research and writing, and the third to finalization and adoption. The report would then be sent to pre-established contacts within policy think tanks, the various parties at the House of Commons and other relevant inputs into foreign policy formulation and critique.

A popular press item may also be written based on the report by a member of the group and be sent to the Globe and Mail for popular outreach.

### **Online Human Rights Journal**

Online journals are an increasingly widespread means of disseminating information. Since the medium is so accessible, student journals seem to be relatively high-profile. There is no such journal on human rights in Canada at the moment, and the introduction of one by members of the ILS is being considered carefully at the moment. Your input, even if quite limited, may influence the form, content or simple existence of such a journal.

### **Human Rights E-Forum**

A weekly e-mail discussion group on various human rights topics. This one already exists, and will start again on September 25. Please sign-up by mailing me at the address below.

### **Interested???**

Contact any Executive Member of the ILS or write directly to Jeff King at [kingj@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:kingj@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca).

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If you want to take more than 15 credits worth of non-lecture courses, you can do so, however, only 15 credits in total will be counted towards fulfilling your degree requirements for graduation. In other words, if you choose to do 18 credits total, you would need to do a total of 128 credits to finish the National Programme or 108 credits to finish the new McGill Programme. You should also be aware of the fact that there is no one in the Faculty looking over your shoulders when you register for these things. If you end up taking too many pass/fail Faculty courses and do not fulfill all of your degree requirements, this would not likely be caught until the powers that be vetted your final transcripts to ensure you were indeed ready to graduate. Rumour has it some people have literally been stopped on the day of Convocation and told they will not be making mom and dad proud just yet. Scary thought isn't it?

One final note on the pass/fail non-lecture classes. If you are one of the lucky students who currently has a scholarship, is hoping to qualify for one in the upcoming year, or is hoping to win an in-class award, you should note that there are rules governing the number of graded classes that you need to take each semester to remain eligible for these awards. More specifically, you need to take 14 graded courses a semester in order to qualify for these prizes. This cap apparently does not affect your eligibility for the graduation medals.

Alors, c'est tout pour cette semaine. Je m'excuse de n'avoir pas écrit dans un style plus bilingue, mais cela me prendra beaucoup plus de temps — quelque chose que je trouve bien précieux à la moment! Cela dit, SVP, n'hésitez pas de m'écrire ou de me parler en français. Je vous jure que je vous comprendrez!

Megan Stephens





next week...

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As well, we encourage you to speak with any of the following McGill students about their summer experience with Davies, Ward & Beck LLP: Robert Leckey (summer '99); Aaron Dantowitz (summers '99 and '00) and/or Albert Pelletier (summer '00).

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le 26 septembre 2000

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## Ask Dr. Panzonfiah

### Dr. J.R. Panzonfiah

*Dear Doctor:*

I am a high-ranking LSA official who finds that 24 hours a day is simply insufficient to get everything done.. I cannot go to all my meetings and respond to all my emails and do all the partying I want to do - not to mention my schoolwork. Can you help me budget my time better?

AM

Dear AM:

Well, first and foremost A.M. (hmmm) it's nobody's fault but your own that you've overcommitted yourself. Nobody told you you had to be a big noise with all the big boys. How long have you been going to this university anyway? Who the hell needs four degrees? It's called a job. Look into it.

The only scrap of advice I would lower myself to throw your way would be to install a desk in your real office (bath-room) at home. You may find this more productive than your current little boy's room reading material (HighLife).

*So Dohktah,*

I haff qvestionay. Vaht heppins vehn I get vewy dwunk at Fuhdsday aftahnoon Kahfee Howz, and I fohgit vat heppinned to me? Ven vaht must I do to wemembah? Hoo iss goot pehson to ahsk? Vaht is goot vay to wemembah? Tell me pliss, *Vorried* guy.

Dear Vorried:

Good news! I have it from a reliable source that the Administration has recently installed hidden cameras in the Common Room for the purposes of making sure no student ever sets foot inside unless they are interviewing with the huge firm(s) who now own it. Apparently, last Thursday you were in there behind one of the couches for a half an hour... by yourself.

The rest is unmentionable, as it would potentially scar the reputation of this institution. Selling our on-site property to THE MAN, however, would not.

Send your questions to [drpanzonfiah@hotmail.com](mailto:drpanzonfiah@hotmail.com). The doctor is always in.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

If you know next to nothing about wine, don't worry, the only way to go is up. Go out to the SAQ. Splurge. Buy a \$20 bottle (Some wines widely available at the moment include the aforementioned Chateau Bonnet, available in both red and white, Chateau de Parenchere, Maitre d'Estournel, Spargolo [Sangiovese di Toscana], and many more). Invite a couple friends or your loved one over. Taste. Then compare notes. Watch how the wine sparkles and how the legs of the wine flow down the side of the glass. Stick your nose right into the glass and inhale the bouquet. Take a nice mouthful of the wine, and swish it around your mouth – kind of like Listerine, but...not. The best way to do this is to make faces – sounds insane, but it's true. Now comes the big decision...spit or swallow...that depends entirely on how you

want your evening to end. If you're looking to giggle a bit, try the latter, if not, the former. It's your call.

I realize, in rereading what I've just written, that I've described a process and a mentality that is more like a lesson than anything else. I guess maybe that's what I mean when I say I'm a wine snob. Wine, like a good cigar, a good meal, and making love, should be done with care and love. I'm not going to get into the relative merits of a quickie in the local Gap store dressing room (be careful they have cameras to prevent that sort of thing) other than to say that I prefer waking up next to someone to an empty queen-sized bed. Drink wine without loving it a little, and you'll wake up in an empty bed. Wham, Bam, thank you ma'am. And where's the fun in that?



# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE FACULTY OF LAW

## MARK YOUR AGENDA

### Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Challenges for the European Governance

The newly created University of Montreal and McGill University Institute for European Studies will launch its activities on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Institute is a joint initiative by McGill and l'Université de Montréal and is part of a network of three similar institutes in Canada that are supported by the European Commission.

The session *Deepening Human Rights Commitments* will take place at the Faculty in Room 102 of New Chancellor Day Hall from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. Dean Peter Leuprecht and Professor Gerard Quinn from the Faculty of Law of University of Galway (Eire) will explore the current work on the development of a charter of fundamental rights. This session will also seek to address the interplay of systems of national and European law in the context of increasing cultural diversity within an expanded Union.

### Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Opening of the exhibit *Citizen of the World: John Peters Humphrey and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

John Peters Humphrey, a graduate and former professor of the Faculty of Law, devoted his life to human rights and wrote the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The exhibit is a tribute to his work and a dedication to mankind. The opening will take place in the Atrium on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m.

A light lunch will be served.

If you're interested in coming, please R.S.V.P. to Maria Marcheschi at [marcheschi@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:marcheschi@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca)

### Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>: John C. Tait Memorial Lecture

The John C. Tait Memorial Lecture, organized by the Faculty and the Federal Justice Department, will be delivered by Dr. Geoffrey Marshall, F.B.A. Emeritus Fellow and formerly Provost of Queen's College, Oxford. He will be speaking on the subject of *Remaking the British Constitution* at the Moot Court on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

If you're interested in coming, please R.S.V.P. to Maria Marcheschi at [marcheschi@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:marcheschi@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca)

**For more information about these events, please contact Anne-Marie La Barre at**

398-6616 or at [labarre@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:labarre@falaw.lan.mcgill.ca).

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if you are not having fun

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